

Minutes

Dental Senate Meeting December 4, 2018

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm
Dental Dean's Conference Room, AG012**

Present: Drs. E. Reichenberger (chair), J. Agar, M. Brown, I. Chen, J. Cotney, A. Gopalakrishna, R. Kelly, L. Kuhn, T. Liang, A. Lichtler, F. Nichols, T. Schmidt, A. Schuyler, R. Stevens, and Y. Wang

Excused: Drs. H.L. Aguila, S. Antic, J. Duncan, E. Dutra, P. Epstein, E. Natarajan, L. Song,

Absent: Drs. J. Piecuch, J. Wagner and Q. Zhu

Guests: Drs. W. Byerly and R. Lalla

Meeting was called to order at 11:32 am.

Approval of last Dental Senate meeting minutes

The minutes of the November 6, 2018 Dental Senate meeting were approved as submitted.

Discussion on industry-sponsored research. How can our research environment optimize on relations with industry? Dr. Kelly presents on activities of the committee for "Management of Financial Conflicts in Research."

There was a lot of interest around the topic of industry-sponsored research at the last Dental Senate meeting. Faculty can stay informed by checking out the Dental Senate link on the School of Dental Medicine website and reviewing the minutes that are posted there. This information is available to all faculty, residents and students. Members of this committee are the ones to inform faculty where to find the latest news.

Dr. Kelly became involved in the management of Financial Conflicts in Research Committee over 16 years ago. It is a health center wide committee with senior administration chaired by Dr. Robert Kelly and co-chaired by Dr. Douglas Peterson. Representatives from the Compliance Office and the Foundation also make up this committee. It reports to the Executive Vice President of Research.

There are two Financial Conflict of Interest policies: the Individual Conflicts of Interest in Research policy and the Institutional Conflicts of Interest in Research policy. The researcher is responsible for indicating what kind of income could be made including royalties and/or other industry income. The committee identifies the potential conflict of

interest in conducting the research.

Some examples of activities faculty are involved in that require input from the Financial Conflicts in Research Committee include:

- Faculty Consulting
- Private businesses
- Published papers and presentations
- Travel reimbursements over \$5K

There are some financial gains that do not need to be reported to the Financial Conflicts in Research Committee. Salaries and mediation property rights that are assigned to UConn, for example, are excluded. Another example of an exclusion is income from seminars and speaking engagements for local government or service on an advisory committee.

Dr. Wes Byerly, the Associate Vice President for Research Integrity and Regulatory Affairs, joined the meeting.

There is a requirement from the federal government (NIH and National Science Foundation) that you must disclose significant financial interest over \$5K in equity holdings (regardless of industry or other source, not including grants).

If you are paid over \$6K through university salary, it is not disclosable, but if it is outside of that, it is considered disclosable as significant financial interest.

The rule of thumb is if the conflict could potentially influence research or the research could affect the money, a management plan needs to be put in place.

What about collecting royalties from intellectual property at another institution? Having intellectual property is the conflict, regardless of royalties. A management plan is needed in this situation.

There are state regulations related to consulting. Any activity outside university-based activity is consulting and you have to get approval for this. When the consulting activity is complete, you must show evidence of payment. Consulting regulations are in place to prevent researchers from receiving double benefits from two companies with the same interest. State employees are bound by these rules. The rules give a safe haven for faculty to allow them to do consulting.

The important thing to remember is if you have a conflict of interest, disclose. Sanctions can be quite stiff in the event that there is an issue.

There is a beneficial side to working with industry. Are there mechanisms in place to

optimize relations with industry?

Currently, there are ten individuals who have projects supported by industry in the dental school. There will occasionally be an inquiry to the research dean's office from a company looking for expertise. In that case, the research office looks for faculty with the right specs to help. In other cases, a faculty member is known in a particular industry and the industry will reach out to them.

Another avenue for finding opportunities to link up with industry is through the Office of Technology Commercialization at Storrs. Karen Woodward is the contact there. It may be helpful to schedule some time with her so she is familiar with the research SDM faculty are engaged in.

Miscellaneous Items

None

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Reichenberger, PhD
Chair, Dental Senate